



Virginia Green Hotels & Lodging Facilities



White Birches Inn Abingdon, VA

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green** has established "core activities" specific to each sector of tourism, and these practices are considered the required minimum for participation in the program. However, **Virginia Green** encourages its participants to reduce their environmental impacts in all aspects of their operations, and this profile provides a full list of all their "green" activities. These are the activities that guests / customers can expect to find when they visit this facility.

White Birches Inn

White Birches Inn is a bed and breakfast in historic Abingdon, Virginia. The Inn features five guest rooms named after famous playwrights who bartered their work for Virginia Ham at the Barter Theater. The Inn is an early 20th century English Country style home furnished with English and American antiques.

White Birches Inn is committed to environmental excellence and works to minimize environmental impacts whenever possible.

The Inn purchases locally produced and organic food at farmers market and local supermarkets.

Virginia Green Activities

This facility pledges that they:

Offer optional linen service

- Have signage in each guest room explaining the linen reuse procedures
- Train housekeeping staff on our process for optional linen service

Recycle

- Plastic Bottles
- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans
- Newspaper
- Office paper

Other items recycled by the facility:

Reduce solid waste

- Track overall solid waste costs
- Have a numeric goal to reduce overall materials that go to the landfill
- Use refillable shampoo bottles rather than single-use bottles
- Instruct housekeeping staff to save and reuse unopened items
- Donate excess food from events
- Compost food waste and other compostables
- Have an effective food inventory control system to minimize waste
- Do not use any disposable containers, dishware, cutlery, or cups
- Use cloth napkins
- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
- Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper
- Remove facility and staff names from junk mail lists when possible
- Reuse scrap paper for notes
- Reuse or donate shipping and packing supplies (peanuts, bubble wrap, etc.)
- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible
- Use latex, low or no-VOC paints
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- Minimize use of pesticides and herbicides in landscaping

Use water efficiently

- Track overall water usage and wastewater costs
- Have established a numeric goal to reduce water consumption over time
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have installed high efficiency dishwashers
- Have installed low flow faucets and showerheads (use less than 2.5 gallons per minute)
- Have installed low flow toilets (use 1.6 gallons per flush or less)
- Use microfiber technology mops
- Use rain gauges and water meters and only irrigate when necessary
- Have minimized our lawn area
- Have installed rain gardens to manage storm water
- Have minimized impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)

Conserve energy

- Track overall energy bills
- Have installed ceiling fans
- Have installed ENERGY STAR-rated windows and doors

- Regularly perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have installed a high efficiency HVAC system
- Keep office doors and windows closed if HVAC system is on
- Use natural lighting (i.e., open draperies and raise shades whenever adequate light from windows is available)
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off lights in unoccupied rooms
- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and canned lighting
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (commercial kitchens, heating and cooling, consumer electronics)
- Use ENERGY STAR qualified office equipment (computers, monitors, copiers, printers, etc.)
- Have adopted a policy/practice to turn off fans, computers, monitors and other devices in unoccupied rooms at the end of the workday or when otherwise not being used

Offer a green events package

- We do not host conferences or events

For more information on **White Birches Inn**, see www.WhiteBirchesInn.com or contact Michael at stay@whitebirchesinn.com or 276-608-8100.

For more information on the Virginia Green program, see www.deq.state.va.us/Programs/PollutionPrevention/VirginiaGreen.aspx.



Virginia Green is a partnership supported by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Tourism Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

